



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2008

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Alternative Teacher Assessment Offered

SACRAMENTO – At its June 5, 2008 meeting, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) approved the Fresno Assessment of Student Teachers (FAST), developed by California State University, Fresno. Beginning July 1, 2008 all teacher preparation programs for elementary and secondary teachers must use an approved Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA). Approval of the FAST model provides an additional option for meeting the legislatively-mandated TPA requirement.

California Education Code allows an institution or agency to develop an alternative TPA and submit it to the Commission for approval. The Commission previously reviewed and approved one other locally-developed alternative TPA, the Performance Assessment for California Teachers (PACT). The state-developed CalTPA is also available.

Developed for the exclusive use of California State University, Fresno, FAST assesses the pedagogical competence of teacher candidates, including interns, in accordance with the California Teaching Performance Expectations (TPEs). The FAST system evaluates candidates based on four tasks. The *Comprehensive Lesson Plan Project* and *Site Visitation Project* are completed during candidates' initial student teaching placements. Then, the *Teaching Sample Project* and the *Holistic Proficiency Project* are completed during final student teaching or internship. Data from FAST provide useful feedback to teacher candidates, to the candidate's professional development programs, and to university personnel for program improvement.

Teacher candidates are evaluated at least twice by trained assessors who have substantial pedagogical expertise. The FAST pool of assessors comes from the Kremen School of Education and Human Development education faculty, single subject content faculty, master teachers, student teaching supervisors and local Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) Induction support providers. Each assessor must be periodically trained to evaluate student performance on a specific task and must meet calibration standards each semester in order to score that semester's student performances.

For further program information, please contact: Dr. Susan Macy, Assessment Coordinator, Kremen School of Education and Human Development, (559) 278-0210 or smacy@csufresno.edu.

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